

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CU-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 /092 W

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R 100715Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8561

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8085

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, CH

SUBJ: PRINCESS ASHRAF VISIT TO CHINA

1. PRINCESS ASHRAF AND HER PERSONAL ENTOURAGE VISITED CHINA JULY 21-31. ACCORDING TO MFA UNDERSECRETARY NADIM, THIS THIRD VISIT BY ASHRAF WAS LARGELY SYMBOLIC AND DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE EXISTING GOOD TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND PRC. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS THREE-DAY TRIP TO TIBET. PRINCESS HELD TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KUAN-HUA AND WAS ENTERTAINED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS LEE SU-WEN. IRANIANS WERE IMPRESSED WITH EXPANSIVE TIBET RECEPTION AS WELL AS HEALTHY APPEARANCE OF THAT COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

2. RHETORIC DURING PRINCESS' VISIT STRESSED IDENTITY OF IRAN AND CHINESE VIEWS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING GREAT POWER (READ SOVIET) MACHINATIONS IN PERSIAN GULF AND THIRD WORLD.

3. LOCAL MIMEOGRAPHED WEEKLY POLITICAL JOURNAL FYI IN ITS REVIEW OF IRAN-CHINESE RELATIONS
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PUBLISHED AFTER ASHRAF'S RETURN NOTED THAT WHILE

IRAN DID NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES IN SOVIET-CHINESE
PPLEMICS, CHINESE AGREED WITH IRAN ON ALMOST ALL
POLICY MATTERS AND PRAISED SHAH, WHILE SOVIETS
CRITICIZED IRANIAN ROLE IN PERSIAN GULF AND MIDDLE
EAST.

4. COMMENT: VISIT WIDELY REGARDED HERE AS NECESSARY
OFFSET TO JULY MOSCOW VISITS OF PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA
AND CROWN PRINCE. TRIP ALSO SEEN AS REMINDER TO USSR
THAT IRAN HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS CHIEF IDEOLOGICAL
ROTAGONIST TO BALANCE OFF POTENTIAL SOVIET BULLYING
OVER IRAN'S PERSIAN GULF POLICY AND U.S. ARMS PURCHASES.
HELMS

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